

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-05

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COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00

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R 200025Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS STATE 224733

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH

SUBJECT: ELECTRIC CARS

1. U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RECENTLY PASSED BILL CONCERNING RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES. THIS BILL HAS BEEN REFERRED TO THE U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE WHICH HAS SCHEDULED HEARINGS FOR OCTOBER 7 AND 10. IN CONNECTION WITH THESE HEARINGS, STAFF OF SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE HAS REQUESTED ASSISTANCE OF DEPARTMENT IN OBTAINING INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS ON ELECTRIC CARS. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO TRANSMIT FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL IN HOST GOVERNMENT AND TO ASK FOR RESPONSE TO AS MUCH OF QUESTIONNAIRE AS HOST GOVERNMENT FEELS IT IS IN POSITION TO PROVIDE. SENATE COMMERCE

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MENT FEELS IT IS IN POSITION TO PROVIDE. SENATE COMMERCE

COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE RESPONSES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ADVANCE OF HEARINGS, OPTIMALLY BY OCTOBER 2 AND NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 7.

2. QUESTIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. HOW EXTENSIVE AN EFFORT CURRENTLY EXISTS ON RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION ON ELECTRIC AND HYBRID VEHICLES IN YOUR COUNTRY? PLEASE INDICATE FUNDING LEVELS, IF POSSIBLE.

2. TO WHAT EXTENT ARE ELECTRIC OR HYBRID VEHICLES CURRENTLY BEING USED IN YOUR COUNTRY AND WHAT IS THE ANTICIPATED LEVEL OF USE OVER THE NEXT 5 AND 10-YEAR PERIODS?

3. HOW CAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRIC OR HYBRID VEHICLES BE MOST EFFECTIVELY STIMULATED?

4. WHAT, IN YOUR OPINION, WILL BE THE STATE-OF-THE-ART IN ELECTRIC AND HYBRID VEHICLES BY 1980?

5. IN ADDITION TO BATTERY RESEARCH, WHERE SHOULD A R&D PROGRAM ON ELECTRIC AND HYBRID VEHICLES FOCUS ITS EFFORTS?

6. ARE THERE OTHER VEHICLE TECHNOLOGIES THAT OFFER COMPARABLE REDUCTION IN PETROLEUM CONSUMPTION AND REDUCTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT TO THAT OF ELECTRIC AND HYBRID VEHICLES?

7. WHAT ARE THE PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS OF CURRENT TECHNOLOGY ELECTRIC VEHICLES? WHAT IMPROVEMENTS IN LEAD-ACID BATTERY TECHNOLOGY DO YOU FORESEE IN THE NEXT 5 AND 10-YEAR PERIODS? WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THESE IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASE AND LIFE CYCLE COSTS OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES?

8. IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT OTHER BATTERIES SHOW PROMISE

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OF FUTURE USE IN ELECTRIC VEHICLES, AND ON WHAT TIME TABLES? WHAT PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS AND COSTS WILL BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF THESE OTHER BATTERIES?

9. WHAT PROBLEMS OR CONSTRAINTS MIGHT ARISE IN LARGE SCALE MANUFACTURE OF ELECTRIC CARS WITH RESPECT TO PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT AND MANPOWER SKILLS? WHAT PROB-

LEMS MIGHT BE ANTICIPATED BY ELECTRIC VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS IN THE AREAS OF MATERIALS OR CAPITAL AVAILABILITY?

10. WHAT INSTITUTIONAL IMPEDIMENTS (I.E. FACTORS OF NON-TECHNICAL NATURE) DO YOU SEE TO THE WIDESPREAD INTRODUCTION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES? KISSINGER

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